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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/523,565	10/14/2005	Ralf-Dieter Busse	2316.2070USWO	1178
23552	7590	08/10/2006	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			NGUYEN, HUNG THANH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2841	
DATE MAILED: 08/10/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/523,565

Applicant(s)

BUSSE ET AL.

Examiner

HUNG T. NGUYEN

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/3/05.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/3/05</u> .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: Change "connected via the at **east** one" to "connected via the at **least** one". Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Phommachanh et al. (US 6,482,039).

**Regarding claim 1:** Phommachanh et al. discloses in figures 2, 4, a distribution box connection module for telecommunications and data technology, comprising a housing (cover of element 10) in which externally accessible input (26, 28) and output (22, 24) contacts are arranged for the connection of cables and cores, with the housing (cover of element 10) having a cavity (21) in which at least one printed circuit board (48) is arranged, with the input (26, 28) and output (22, 24) contacts being arranged on the opposite end faces (input/output are arranged in opposite end, see figures) of the housing (cover of element 10), and with the input (26, 28) contacts being associated

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with one input side and the output contacts being associated with one output side (input/output being associated with input/output sides, see figures), wherein the input contacts (26, 28) are in the form of at least two mutually opposite rows (27, 29) of contacts, and the output contacts are in the form of at least one plug connector (22, 24) with at least two input contacts in the first row and least two input contacts in the second row being connected to the output contacts (input/output of elements 26, 28, 50, 52 are connected, see figure 4); in the at least one plug connector (22, 24), and with the input contacts in the first row (26) and in the second row (28) being connected via the at least one printing circuit board (48) to the output contacts (22, 24) in the plug connector.

**Regarding claim 2, 12:** Phommachanh et al. discloses the input contacts are in the form of insulation displacement terminal contacts (see column 3, line 2).

**Regarding claim 3:** Phommachanh et al. discloses the plug connectors are in the form of RJ-45 female connectors (see column 2, lines 56-65).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phommachanh et al. (US 6,482,039) in view of Fair et al. (US 6,419,526) and Kamarauskas et al. (US 6,609,929).

**Regarding claim 4:** Phommachanh et al. discloses all elements as described above with respect to claim 1 except, Phommachanh et al. does not disclose the output contacts are in the form of two mutually opposite rows of plug connectors.

Fair et al. discloses in figure 1A, the output contacts are in the form of two mutually opposite rows of plug connectors (top and bottom row).

Phommachanh and Fair et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor to make connectors.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to make connectors of Phommachanh et al. to have opposite rows as taught by Fair et al. for the benefit of increasing more connections.

**Regarding claim 5:** Phommachanh et al. discloses all elements as described above with respect to claim 1 except, Phommachanh et al. does not disclose two mutually opposite printed circuit boards are arranged within the housing and are electrically connected to one another.

Fair et al. discloses in figure 1A, two mutually opposite printed circuit boards are arranged within the housing and are electrically connected to one another (the same reason as described in claim 1).

Phommachanh and Fair et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor to make connectors.

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Therefore, it would have been obvious for one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to make connectors of Phommachanh et al. to have opposite rows as taught by Fair et al. for the benefit of increasing more connections.

**Regarding claim 6:** Phommachanh et al. discloses all elements as described above with respect to claim 1 except, Phommachanh et al. does not disclose printed circuit boards are connected to one another via a flat ribbon cable.

However, it is old and well known for one ordinary skill in the art to connect circuit board to circuit board by flat ribbon cable for the benefit of saving space.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have flat ribbon connection for the benefit of saving space.

**Regarding claim 7, 8, 10:** Phommachanh et al. discloses all elements as described above with respect to claim 1 except, Phommachanh et al. does not disclose protection elements are arranged on the printed circuit board and are arranged electrically between the input and output contacts.

However, it is old and well known for one ordinary skill in the art to have protection element on printed circuit board as seen in many electronic applications for the benefit of protecting circuit being damage by mishandling such as short circuit.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to protection element on printed circuit board for the benefit of protecting circuit being damage by mishandling such as short circuit.

**Regarding claim 9:** Phommachanh et al. discloses all elements as described above with respect to claim 1 except, Phommachanh et al. does not disclose the housing is

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formed from two or more parts with at least part of the housing being composed of metal.

Kamarauskas et al. discloses disclose the housing is formed from two or more parts with at least part of the housing being composed of metal (see column 3, lines 25-50).

Phommachanh and Kamarauskas et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor to make connectors.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to make connectors of Phommachanh et al. to have metal as taught by Kamarauskas et al. for the benefit of shielding interferences.

**Regarding claim 11:** Phommachanh et al. discloses all elements as described above with respect to claim 1 except, Phommachanh et al. does not disclose the metal housing is formed with connecting elements for profiled rods and/or rails.

Kamarauskas et al. discloses in figure 1, the metal housing is formed with connecting elements for profiled rods and/or rails (element 12, column 3 lines 25-40).

Phommachanh and Kamarauskas et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor to make connectors.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to make connectors of Phommachanh et al. to have metal housing as taught by Kamarauskas et al. for the benefit of shielding interferences.

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### **Relevant Art**

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Phommachanh et al. (US 6,482,039) teaches the double deck jack, Fair et al. (US 6,419,526) teaches the multi-port jack, Kamarauskas et al. (US 6,609,929) teaches the connector assembly, Gutierrez et al. (US 6,878,012) teaches the shielding connectors, Goodall et al. (US 5,531,612) teaches multiple jacks, Neumetzler et al. (US 7,037,118) teaches access module.

### **Conclusion**

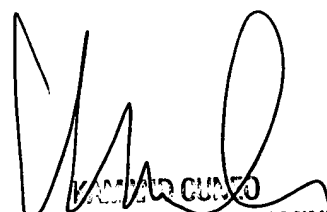
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUNG T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-5983. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by phone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, KAMMIE CUNEO can be reached on 571-272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

HN

Hung Thanh Nguyen

8/1/06

  
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